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Avengers

Earth's Mightiest Heroes

More Mighty Fine Storytelling from Joe Casey

Two years ago, *Joe Casey* added to Marvel history with ***Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes,*** a limited series that explored the formation of the team and the introduction of Captain America to their ranks. Now Casey is ready to revisit the Avengers with a second historic exploration—but this time, he's moving ahead a few years.

Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes II, a new miniseries by Casey with artists *Will Rosado & Tom Palmer,* revisits the team during some a more turbulent era in the team's history, when the original lineup had been replaced by a new group of Avengers that included the Vision, Hawkeye, the Black Panther, Goliath and the Wasp.

As Casey explained, ***Earth's Mightiest Heroes II*** offers "a much tighter focus than the first series. In the original ***Earth's Mightiest Heroes,*** we were dealing with sixteen issues' worth of material in only eight issues. For ***EMH II,*** we're only dealing with about three issues' worth of material in eight issues. Those three issues are basically ***Avengers #59-61.*** We actually pick up right where issue #58, the classic tale 'Even an Android Can Cry,' leaves off. Literally, the end of that issue leads right into the first scene of ***EMH II #1.***"

So why not pick up where he left off at the end of the first series? "First of all, I felt like the 'Cap's Kooky Quartet'-era that we ended the first ***EMH*** with had been fairly well documented," Casey said. "Second, I really *liked* how this era of the team -- this specific lineup -- mirrored the original lineup in a very unique way. It gave me a good counterpoint to the first series, really showing how the team had evolved. The evolution of the Avengers is part of what ***EMH II*** is all about, so it just made sense...

"The lineup of this era consisted of Goliath, the Wasp, Hawkeye, the Black Panther and the Vision. Like I said, this five-member roster is almost a mirror image of the original lineup. What's really interesting to me, and I've said this elsewhere, is that this was the only time in the history of the team that I feel like the roster worked perfectly well without even one of the 'Big Three' present. Even Captain America's absence didn't affect the validity of this lineup. Usually, when Cap's not around, it ain't Avengers. But this lineup had a special chemistry to it.

"And, just like the original team, this version of the Avengers has to prove their worth all over again to an untrusting public, not to mention a suspicious government. I also liked the fact that Goliath and the Wasp -- the two members who were, in a way, the second bananas of the original lineup -- are now the senior members. Goliath is chairman at this point, which plays a big role in his story in ***EMH II.***"

One challenge in writing a series like this is building suspense when readers know what happens to the characters already. Is there ever a temptation to work in a surprise revelation or two just to shake things up? "Well, in a word—no. will Casey be able to squeeze in more "previously-untold-tales"? Yeah, much more so than the first ***EMH*** series. It's more in the vein of what we did in ***FF: First Family,*** where we're telling a previously-untold tale that occurred between and around the events depicted in the original issues. What was fun this time around was coming up with a bigger story that fit in with the continuity and, in some cases, contributes to the stories that were running at that time. For instance, the Black Panther's return to Wakanda in ***Avengers #62*** is not the first time he becomes aware of the possible coup d'etat that occurs at the hands of the Man-Ape. Also, Hank Pym's breakdown and transformation into Yellowjacket doesn't just come out of nowhere, as it sort of seemed to in the original comics. That characterization is tied to a specific event that we depict in ***EMH II.***

"At the same time, we do deal fairly extensively with one of the most controversial Avengers stories... the wedding of the Wasp and Yellowjacket. We reveal a lot of 'behind the scenes' details on that particular event that will put it in a whole new context. Part of my goal is to get modern readers to go back and read those classic comics, whether it's back issues or collections or whatever. Those comics are just too good not to be put in the spotlight again."

Just how much freedom does this "untold tale" approach allow? Is anything off-limits? "We would never do anything that somehow invalidated anything established in those original issues. At the same time, if you look at those three or four issues, #58-#61, there's a lot of room to play. Things were happening at a breakneck pace back then. One minute, they're being attacked by the Vision, the next minute they're inducting him as an Avenger. The very next issue, Yellowjacket shows up. Don't blink, because the next thing you know, there's a wedding going on! A lot of stuff happening really fast. Anti-decompression at its finest.

If the first ***EMH*** taught me anything, it was that these types of mini-series definitely cater to a specific type of fan, the longtime fan that's probably been reading Avengers as long as I have. Now, doing this sequel series, I guess I feel like I have an even greater responsibility to everyone who bought and enjoyed the first ***EMH*** and that means that anything I add to characters is simply building on the classic, near-iconic versions. And enhancing them, hopefully."

The Vision must be particularly challenging, considering the many changes he went through prior to confronting his ultimate fate. How does Casey view the android Avenger? "Remember when I talked about this lineup mirroring the original lineup? Back in the day, the Vision paralleled both the Hulk's role and, simultaneously, Captain America's role," Casey said. "The general public and the U.S. government aren't too thrilled about his sudden inclusion into the Avengers and are incredibly mistrustful of him, just as they were about the Hulk. At the same time, the Vision is just trying to adjust to this new life, just as Cap did when he was thawed out. The Vision's assimilation into both the Avengers and into society in general is a big part of his story in this series."

Considering the tighter focus of this limited series, "But strictly in terms of character development, there was a lot of room to play. Of course, any 'untold tale' we decide to tell has to fit in with the tone of the issues it's coinciding with. I think we did a pretty good job in that regard. But I suppose we'll let the readers decide..."

For Casey, becoming familiar with the characters was no problem at all. "As a fan, I guess I feel like I've known these characters so long and I know them so well, to put words in their mouths was some of the most natural writing I've ever done on characters I didn't create. I just know how Hawkeye talks, how he reacts to things, etc. Growing up a Marvel kid, I just have an affinity for these guys... Iron Man, Hawkeye, Cap, Hank Pym, the Wasp, the Vision. These characters are like old friends."

Joining Casey is penciller *Will Rosado,* along with an inker whose involvement made the writer quite happy. "We've got classic ***Avengers*** inker *Tom Palmer* inking this thing. That's pretty huge for me, just on a fan level."

A new cover artist completes the ***Earth's Mightiest Heroes II*** team. "This time out, we've got *Dave Johnson* doing covers, and Dave and I agreed that we wanted to go for some more story-centric covers on this one (as opposed to the strict 'character portraits' we did on the first ***EMH***). But the letter motif, as most people have seen by now, is back in a fresh way. If Dave can just remember how to spell 'Avengers,' then I think it'll work out fine."

Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes II #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for November 8th release.

by Matt Brady (with Cliff Biggers)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

In: *Will Jacobs, Gerard Jones, & Tim Hamilton's* spy parody ***The Trouble With Girls,*** which will return to comic shops courtesy of Checker Books. The company has ***The Trouble With Girls Volume One,*** a trade paperback reprinting the first seven issues of the original ***Girls*** series from Malibu, on the schedule for November release. ***Volume Two,*** reprinting #s 8-14 of the original Malibu series, will follow in January 2007.

In: Spider-Man will be back in the black costume in February in ***Spider-Man: Back in Black***. But why is he in the old costume—and for that matter, is it really Peter behind that ebon mask? Marvel ain't sayin'...

Out: ***Lost Girls,*** the slipcased three-volume hardcover edition of *Alan Moore & Melinda Gebbie's* adult tale starring Dorothy, Alice, and Wendy from three of the most famous works in children's literature, has sold out of its 10,000 copy first printing. A second printing should be available in late October, but advance reorders will probably claim all of those copies—so if you're interested, reserve a copy with the folks at your friendly local comic shop ASAP!

In: *Mike Marts,* who has taken a position as Senior Editor at DC. This means that he'll be leaving his position at Marvel, where he has overseen the X-Men line in recent years. ""Mike not only comes with a great resume of books that he's worked on, but also comes with the highest recommendations from the talent that's worked with him, so we're looking forward to him coming in, and bringing a fresh set of eyes to the DCU," *Dan DiDio* said

"Sometimes you just feel in your gut that it's time for a change. This is one of those times," Marts said.He has fond memories of his time at Marvel, explaining that "I've worked with some of the best creators in the business, the editorial staff is top notch, plus, for the first time in a long time, I feel as though the X-books have all the right creators working on them and are headed in a great and exciting direction. And I can't say enough good things about my bosses at marvel. Both *Dan Buckley* and *Joe Quesada* are the best of the best, and I've learned a great many things from both guys... DC is a new world for me and I look forward to diving head-first into it."

In: *Axel Alonso,*who has assumed the duties of X-Men Group Editor, replacing *Mike Marts* (remember?—we just told you about his move to DC!). That's the latest duty for the busy Alonso, who is also an Executive Editor as well as Group Editor of the Marvel Knights titles and the MAX titles. In addition, Alonso continues to edit ***Amazing Spider-Man, Moon Knight, Ghost Rider,*** and ***Punisher War Journal.*** Assistant Editor *Sean Ryan* and Associate Editor *Nick Lowe* will remain on the X-titles.

In: A two-volume black and white ***Showcase Presents*** assemblage of DC's ***Who's Who*** series from the 1980s. "It's a two volume ***Showcase*** collection, featuring all the original twenty-six issues of ***Who's Who: The Definitive Directory of the DC Universe*** issues as well as the five issues of updates that came out after, in 1987," DC's Collected Editions editor *Georg Brewer* said. "I've been trying to find a way to do this for a long time, because I *love* that stuff – I actually have a bound set of the originals in my office from the library because it's just a great reference tool, and was a nice moment in time for a lot of this stuff, and having this format is a perfect one for it." The series, originally produced just prior to the original ***Crisis on Infinite Earths,*** is full of references to Earth-2, the original original Justice Society, and all that existed in the multiverse prior to the Anti-Monitor having his way.

Out: ***Wonder Woman*** as a monthly series. DC has confirmed that, effective immediately, ***Wonder Woman*** will be published on a bimonthly schedule; ***Wonder Woman #3*** should be in comic shops in mid-October.

Out: The recently-reprinted ***Bone One Volume Edition*** from Cartoon Books—a hefty black-and-white compendium that includes the entire run of the groundbreaking *Jeff Smith* series—came back into print in late August and sold out almost immediately. Cartoon plans to do a third printing later this year to meet the unprecedented demand for the affordably-priced collection.

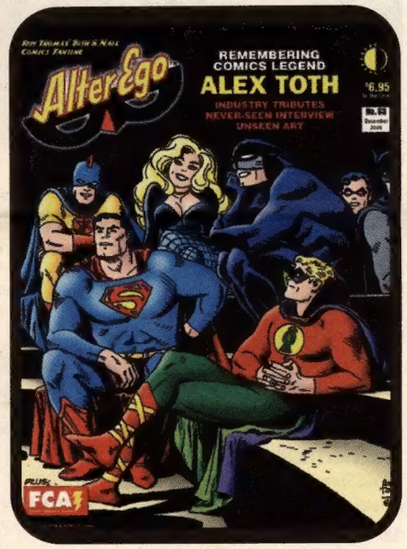
In: A four-volume ***New Gods Omnibus*** that Collected Editions editor *Georg Brewer* describes as the definitive collection of *Jack Kirby's* Fourth World Saga. "We're still trying to determine the final contents, but essentially, it's going to be a hardcover collection of the full New Gods saga," Brewer said. "Right now, and this is subject to change, my bias would be to collect the stories across titles, as they were released chronologically, so it gives you a sense of how the concepts evolved, so that way you're not stuck with a full ***Mr. Miracle*** collection or a full ***Forever People,*** but rather, build the larger story as the issues and pieces were released chronologically." The ***Omnibus*** will include the full run of ***New Gods*** and ***The Hunger Dogs,*** but will also include, as Brewer said, assorted other issues which contain pieces of the larger whole, such as the debut of the characters in Kirby's issues of ***Jimmy Olsen*** and others. "Those are some of the details we're still working out, but it's looking like it will be four collections of 200-plus pages each," Brewer said. "They'll be color hard covers – a nice, definitive collection. I think that's something that the core Kirby fans have wanted to see for a long time." Brewer said that DC is in talks with a handful of people in regards to introductions and text pieces that add context to the larger picture Kirby was drawing, as well as other materials from the era, such as the mock up to a cover of an issue of ***Showcase*** where the New Gods were originally slated to debut.

In: *Marv Wolfman,* whose run on ***Nightwing*** (which begins with #125) is now slated to run at least twelve issues, according to *Dan DiDio.*

In: Marvel is getting back into the classics-adaptation business in 2007 with the release of a new line that will kick off with *Roy Thomas's* adaptation of *James Fenimore Cooper's* ***Last of the Mohicans.*** While a few publishers have offered sporadically-scheduled adaptations of classic works in recent years, no one has focused on an ongoing regularly-scheduled line of classics adaptations in almost two decades.

In: ***Nightwing Annual #1*** is on the DC schedule for early 2007; according to *Dan DiDio,* the book will be set after ***Infinite Crisis*** and before he left on the cruise with Bruce and Tim. The extra-length tale will be written by ***Manhunter*** scribe *Marc Andreyko.*

In: *Brad Meltzer,* whose run on DC's best-selling ***Justice League of America*** has now been expanded to thirteen issues, according to *Dan DiDio*—or fourteen, if you count the special ***Justice League of America #0*** that laid the groundwork for the new series. After that, Meltzer *swears* that he's got to get back to work on his next best-seller for his book publisher...



In: A tribute to *Alex Toth,* which will be the cover feature of ***Alter Ego #63,*** slated for December release from TwoMorrows publishing. This issue, which kicks off with a full-color Justice Society cover by Toth, features a lengthy interview with Toth by *Michael Vance,* accompanied by a great deal of Toth art, much of which has never before seen print.

In: *Alan Davis,* who has just signed an exclusive with Marvel. His first project produced under the exclusive contract will be the relaunch of ***Clandestine,*** the superteam Davis created for Marvel in the 1990's.

In: A quartet of projects growing out of ***Annihilation,*** including an ongoing ***Nova*** series written by *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning;* oneshots starring ***Galactus' Heralds,*** a ***SuperSkrull*** miniseries written by *Javier Grillo-Marxuach,* and a ***Quasar*** miniseries.

In: An ***Avengers/Guiding Light*** crossover that brings Marvel's superteam to the soap opera setting of Springfield to learn more about a new superhero.

Out: *Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill's* ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Black Dossier,*** an original hardcover graphic novel originally slated for release in late October. Due to creative delays, the book (which is Moore and O'Neill's final ***LoEG*** volume for WildStorm/ABC before they take the concept to Top Shelf) has been postponed until sometime in 2007. "With ***Black Dossier,*** *Kevin O'Neill* is producing the work of his career," Wildstorm's *Scott Dunbier* said. "Unfortunately, due to his intense eye for detail and the complex nature of the book, it is also turning out to be the slowest project he has ever done. Wildstorm, through its ABC imprint, will be publishing the book in 2007. Alan and Kevin hope readers who have waited so patiently will feel it's worth the wait; I know I do."

In: An ongoing ***Spider-Man Family*** series written by *Sean McKeever* dealing with Spidey stories of all different shapes and sizes. "We may do untold tales from the past, present, and future (yes, maybe even 2099) and we'll also be focusing on supporting Spidey characters as well. And, it will all be in continuity!" editor-in-chief *Joe Quesada* said.

In: ***World War Hulk,*** a major storyline being pegged by *Joe Quesada* as "Marvel's big summer blockbuster event for 2007." The story, which is "made possible by the events of ***Civil War,***" will be written by *Greg Pak* and illustrated by *John Romita Jr.*

In: *J. Michael Straczynski,* who has signed on as writer of Marvel's new ***Thor*** series.

SOS

Over the years, scores of comic creators have given fans hour after hour of entertainment—and now, fans can give something back to one of those creators who has fallen victim to a personal tragedy.

In mid-September, the Texas home of writer/artist *Lea Hernandez* (best known for her work on ***Rumble Girls*** and ***Cathedral Child***) burned, destroying half her house and smoke- damaging the remainder. In addition, she lost at least six of her family's beloved pets (two dogs and four cats). "If you knew Lea, you'd know how devastating that is," her friend, writer *Gail Simone,* said. "Lea has two (wonderful, amazing) special needs children and right now they need a place to stay and some clothes to wear. More than that, they need some help, and fast, in the form of donations to her paypal account. Lea's a proud person so I'm going to ask *for* her. This is important, and a great chance to do a wonderful thing for a creator who has consistently enriched this industry we all love so much. Please, take a moment and send *whatever you can* to Lea's paypal account and help make this time a little bit less painful for someone who would do the same for you if the positions were reversed." Donations can be sent to **divalea@gmail.com** "Thank you so much for helping," Simone said in conclusion Really, any amount you can send will make a difference."

September's Top Twenty Comics

ACTION COMICS #844

Richard Donner & Geoff Johns (W); Adam Kubert (A)
(DC AUG060180 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Richard Donner, the man responsible for the classic ***Superman*** starring *Christopher Reeve,* joins ***Action***'s creative team with this issue.

Why Should You Care?

Not only is Donner, a superstar director, making his comics debut, but he's being joined by two of the most talented men in comics—co-writer *Geoff Johns* and artist *Adam Kubert.* Talk about a super-team!...

AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #0

Tom DeFalco (W); Ron Frenz & Sal Buscema (A)
(Marvel AUG062021 $1.99)

AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #1

Tom DeFalco (W); Ron Frenz & Sal Buscema (A)
(Marvel AUG062022 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Mayday Parker's adventures continue in a relaunched series—but the classic Marvel approach, the irresistible characters, and the intriguing glimpses into a possible Marvel future are still here. As an added attraction, Marvel is also offering a special zero issue that hits the high points of Spider-Girl's first hundred-issue run.

Why Should You Care?

Tom DeFalco is writing the only superhero comic on the stands that delivers the original Marvel feel, month after month—and since each issue is a self-contained story, *every* issue is a great jumping-on point!

ASTRO CITY: THE DARK AGE BOOK 2 #1

Kurt Busiek (W); Brent Anderson (A)
(WildStorm/DC AUG060264 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The sixteen-part ***Dark Age*** epic continues with the debut of the second arc. Against the background of Astro City's turbulent 1970s, one of the Williams brothers is targeted for death, while the other makes a discovery that could change everything.

Why Should You Care?

Kurt Busiek's skill at characterization takes center stage in this saga that brings an Eisneresque personal vision to contemporary superheroics.

AUTHORITY #1

Grant Morrison (W); Gene Ha (A)
(WildStorm/DC AUG060252 $2.99; also available signed by Gene Ha (AUG063281 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

The Nietzschean superteam returns in a powerful new series that strips away the silliness and absurdity to get the team back to its disturbing brutal roots.

Why Should You Care?

Not just any creative team could do right by ***The Authority***—so WildStorm hasn't enlisted just any creative team. Instead, they've brought in the best writer of 2006—*Grant Morrison*—and they've united him with the superlative *Gene Ha* to make this a truly buzzworthy series once again.

CARTOON HISTORY OF THE MODERN WORLD TP

Larry Gonick (W/A)
(Gonick JUL063282 $17.95)

What's the Scoop?

Take a fascinating trip through the past half-a-millennium of history courtesy of comics' premiere historian.

Why Should You Care?

If you've ever read a *Larry Gonick* ***Cartoon History of the Universe*** volume, you know about his inimitable ability to blend irreverence, fact, whimsy, and insight. Now he turns his attention to the New World, beginning with Columbus' voyage and taking us through the resurgence of militant religion as a threat to world peace.

DEATHBLOW #1

Brian Azzarello (W); Carlos D'Anda (A)
(WildStorm/DC AUG060255 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Assumed dead by his superiors, Michael Cray—aka Deathblow—is written off... but when he turns up alive in a Middle Eastern prison,the government launches a rescue raid to free their most talented killer. But where do his loyalties lie... and who can he trust?

Why Should You Care?

WildStorm's ***WorldStorm*** rollout continues with a harsh look at one of the WildStormverse's most dangerous anti-heroes—and it's written by *Brian Azzarello,* whose years of experience with ***100 Bullets*** served to prepare him to explore the ultimate amoral protagonist.

DOCTOR STRANGE: OATH #1

Brian K. Vaughan (W); Marcos Martin (A)
(Marvel AUG062042 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

With his most trusted friend at death's door, Doctor Strange recruits a surprising new ally to join him in a quest that will take him into the deadliest dimensions of all... and it all leads into Doctor Strange's upcoming involvement in a surprising new super-team!

Why Should You Care?

Brian K. Vaughan, the skillful writer behind ***Runaways*** and ***Y—The Last Man,*** puts Doctor Strange firmly in the middle of the Marvelverse in this series that restored the lost glories of the Master of the Mystic Arts.

FABLES: 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL HC

Bill Willingham (W); Charles Vess, Brian Bolland, John Bolton, Michael Wm. Kaluta, James Jean, Tara McPherson, Derek Kirk Kim, Esao Andrews, Mark Buckingham, Mark Wheatley, & Jill Thompson (A)
(Vertigo/DC JUL060245 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

The first original ***Fables*** graphic novel presents an assortment of tales set in the early days of Fabletown prior to the beginnings of the ***Fables*** series, with Snow White cast as a reluctant Scheherezade who must charm a self-indulgent sultan who intends to marry her—and then kill her. To stay alive, Snow entertains him with a series of fantastic tales that offer insights into the secret histories of familiar ***Fables*** characters.

Why Should You Care?

Fables is the logical successor to ***Sandman*** as Vertigo's premiere fantasy series, as this upscale all-star graphic novel aptly demonstrates.

GEN 13 #1

Gail Simone (W); Talent Caldwell & Matt Banning (A)
(WildStorm/DC AUG060258 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Caitlin, Sarah, Roxy, Bobby, and Eddie are outcast teenagers who have something in common: strange abilities far beyond those of ordinary teenagers. So what's the secret behind these powers—and what do Tabula Rasa and International Operations have to do with them?

Why Should You Care?

The third ***WorldStorm*** debut of the month brings back the most popular teen team in WildStorm history—and artist *J. Scott Campbell,* who made his superstar debut with the original ***Gen13*** series, is supplying the variant cover illustration for this reimagining of the original team.

HELLGATE: LONDON #0

Ian Edginton (W); Steve Pugh (A)
(Dark Horse AUG060016 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A surveillance assignment leads an MI5 agent to a scene of brutal horror in the heart of London. Before she knows it, she's entangled in a complex plot involving the Knights Templar, with the horrors of All Hallows Eve rapidly approaching...

Why Should You Care?

One of the most eagerly-awaited videogames of 2006 is the inspiration for this disturbing horror saga produced in conjunction with Flagship Studios the company responsible for the game that inspired this comic of sophisticated horror.

HELLSTORM, SON OF SATAN #1

Alexander Irvine (W); Russell Braun & Klaus Janson (A)
(Marvel AUG062087 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has become a magnet for demons attracted by the allure of human misery. So what better time for the Son of Satan to pay a visit to the Big Easy?

Why Should You Care?

The 1970's Marvel horror star is back in a tale of sophisticated horror published under Marvel's mature-readers MAX imprint.

HIGHLANDER #1

Michael Avon Oeming & Brandon Jerwa (W); Lee Moder (A)
(Dynamite AUG063180 $2.99; also available signed by cover artist Tony Harris (AUG063276 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Connor MacLeod takes on the Kurgan in post-war Berlin as the ongoing ***Highlander*** series launches.

Why Should You Care?

Fans of the films and television series are going to be quite happy with the comics, which is produced under the guidance of *Highlander*-meister *David Abramowitz* to ensure that it dovetails with ***Highlander*** continuity.

IRREDEEMABLE ANT-MAN #1

Robert Kirkman (W); Phil Hester (A)
(Marvel AUG062027 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the world's *worst* superhero! He was a low-level SHIELD agent... but everything changes when he gets hold of Henry Pym's newest Ant-Man uniform...

Why Should You Care?

Robert Kirkman reminds us that not *everyone* is cut out to be a superhero with this clever, irreverent look at what can happen when the wrong guy is in the right place at the right time.

JOHN WOO'S SEVEN BROTHERS #1

Garth Ennis (W); Jeevan Kang (A)
(Virgin AUG063641 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Seven men who appear to have nothing in common turn out to be united by their destinies as they are drawn together in the service of a mysterious woman in order to fulfill an ancient prophecy... and save a world.

Why Should You Care?

After a low-key beginning, Virgin enlists superstar writer *Garth Ennis* to join with acclaimed filmmaker *John Woo* for this epic fantasy series inspired by ancient legend.

MAKING COMICS—STORYTELLING: SECRETS OF COMICS MANGA & GN SC

Scott McCloud (W/A)
(Harper-Collins JUL063708 $22.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn the principles of comics storytelling, present in comics form by one of the most skilled critics/historians of the medium.

Why Should You Care?

This guidebook from the man responsible for ***Understanding Comics*** and ***Reinventing Comics*** is an essential reference for anyone hoping to create comics—and a fascinating read for those who'd like to know more about what goes into making good comics.

NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET #1

Chuck Dixon (W)
(WildStorm/DC AUG060275 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A new family has moved to the quiet town of Springwood—but once night falls, they learn that Springwood isn't as sedate as it seems... particularly if you've just moved to Elm Street!...

Why Should You Care?

At long last, ***Nightmare on Elm Street*** moves uptown to its new publishing home at DC—and with their upscale new digs comes a new A-list storytelling talent in the form of *Chuck Dixon*.

NIGHTWING #125

Marv Wolfman (W); Dan Jurgens & Andy Clarke (A)
(DC AUG060173 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (AUG063280 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Nightwing joins the police in the hunt for Raptor, a new adversary with an arsenal of deadly weapons. The police believe he's guilty of murder... but Nightwing isn't so sure.

Why Should You Care?

He almost died in ***Infinite Crisis***—and ever since then, he's been struggling for a new focus. Now, thanks to a new creative team that includes the writer responsible for his creation, Nightwing gets back on track with a new focus and a new life for Dick Grayson.

OTHER SIDE #1

Jason Aaron (W); Cameron Stewart (A)
(Vertigo/DC AUG060294 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Vietnam War is both the backdrop and the *raison d'etre* for this powerful limited series that follows a nineteen-year-old Alabama farmboy-turned-Marine and a nineteen-year-old North Vietnamese farmboy-turned-Viet-Cong on the inevitable path that will bring them face-to-face with one another.

Why Should You Care?

Vertigo ventures into new territory with this disturbing look at the realities of war from both sides.

SUPERMAN BATMAN ANNUAL #1

Joe Kelly (W); Ed McGuinness, Ryan Ottley, & Dexter Vines (A)
(DC AUG060181 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

How did Superman and Batman discover each other's secret identities? Why was Deathstroke after Bruce Wayne on one of his earliest assignments? How do Ultraman and Owlman fit into this? Find out in this extra-length annual by *Joe Kelly, Ed McGuinness, Ryan Ottley, & Dexter Vines.*

Why Should You Care?

Thus far, ***Superman/Batman*** has focused on contemporary tales of the World's Finest heroes, but this ***Annual*** offers an intriguing look at the early days of the super-partnership.

ULTIMATE POWER #1

Brian Bendis (W); Greg Land (A)
(Marvel AUG062015 $2.99; also available signed by Greg Land (AUG063274 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Desperately seeking a cure for his friend Ben Grimm, Reed Richards inadvertently punches a hole into an adjacent universe... a universe with its own superheroes known as the Squadron Supreme. Rather than welcoming Mister Fantastic, however, the residents of this world charge him with high crimes in a tale that will set the Ultiverse and the Supremeverse on a collision course.

Why Should You Care?

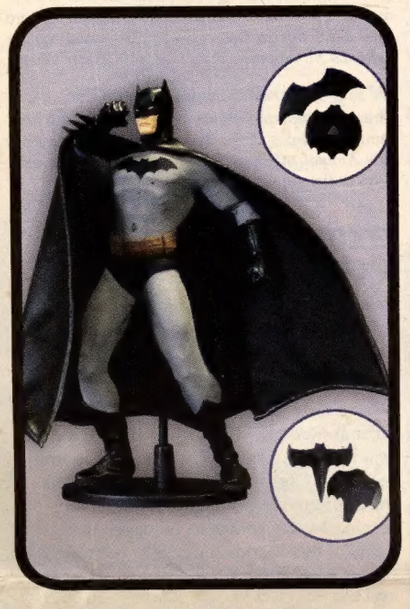
It may not be the Marvel 616 Universe, but any Marvel reality crossover is a big event—and when you look at the creative team for this series (a roster that includes not only Bendis Land, but also *J.M.Straczynski* and *Jeph Loeb*, each of whom will contribute three issues to the nine-part saga), you can see just how big an event it is!

Hot Commodities: October's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN 13" DELUXE COLLECTOR FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR060404 $69.99)

This 1:6 scale modern figure includes four different stylized batarangs and a stand to display the figure.



BATMAN: DARK VICTORY SERIES 1 ACTION FIGURE SET

(DC Direct MAR060409 $79.99)

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY SERIES 1 BATMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR060413 $19.99)

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY SERIES 1 COMMISSIONER GORDON ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR060411 $19.99)

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY SERIES 1 ROBIN & PENGUIN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR060412 $24.99)

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY SERIES 1 SCARECROW ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR060414 $19.99)

Five figures—four solo, one a two-figure set—inspired by *Tim Sale's* striking art for the *Jeph Loeb*-written ***Batman: Dark Victory.***

SUPERMAN 1/4 SCALE MUSEUM QUALITY STATUE

(DC Direct MAR060402 $295.00)

This 18" Superman figure is the most realistic and classic representation of the Man of Steel ever produced. The 1:4 scale museum quality mixed-media figure is composed of resin, metal, and an expertly crafted fabric costume. Limited up to 1,250 pieces.

Collected Cool: October's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE DC: THE NEW FRONTIER HC

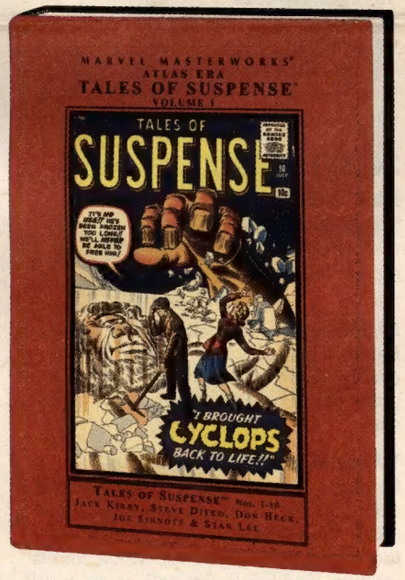
(DC JUL060153 $75.00

Oversized slipcased edition of *Darwyn Cooke's* seminal early-days-of-the-Silver-Age tale, complete with bonus material.

COMPLETE CHESTER GOULD'S DICK TRACY VOL 1 HC

(IDW AUG063354 $29.99)

First volume on a chronological reprinting of *Chester Gould's* timeless comic strip; includes sample strips used to sell the strip to syndicators and newspapers.



MARVEL MASTERWORKS: ATLAS ERA TALES SUSPENSE VOL 1 HC

(Marvel AUG062098 $49.99)

Collecting the classic pre-hero ***Tales of Suspense #s 1-10,*** featuring work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Don Heck, John Buscema, Joe Sinnott, Bill Everett, Al Williamson, Russ Heath, Dick Ayers,* and others.

COMPLETE PEANUTS VOL 6 HC

(Fantagraphics AUG063293 $28.95)

Presenting *Charles M. Schulz'* memorable strips from the early 1960's—one of the strip's most creatively fertile eras.

EC ARCHIVES: WEIRD SCIENCE VOL 1 HC

(Gemstone AUG063318 $49.95)

Lovingly recolored collection of the first six issues of the legendary EC Comic featuring work by *Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman, Joe Orlando, Jack Kamen, Al Feldstein,* and others—and it's the first volume in an ongoing series that will collect every EC comics in full color!

Read All About It: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALAN MOORE: EXIT INTERVIEW SC

(Airwave AUG062915 $9.95)

Presenting a brand new, three-hour plus interview with *Alan Moore,* one of the field's most influential—and sometimes controversial—talents.

ALL STAR COMPANION VOL 2 TP

(TwoMorrows AUG063622 $21.95)

Roy Thomas takes another look at the Golden Age Justice Society and their Silver Age resurrection in this volume filled with rarely-seen art, interviews, and more.

HABERLIN'S DIGITAL ART TUTORIALS 4 DISC SET

(Image AUG061748 $89.99)

HABERLIN'S DIGITAL ART TUTORIALS: BACKGROUND SCENES & SKY VOL 1

(Image AUG061752 $29.99)

HABERLIN'S DIGITAL ART TUTORIALS: BEGIN COLORING VOL 1

(Image AUG061749 $29.99)

HABERLIN'S DIGITAL ART TUTORIALS: PAINT MONSTERS & CREATURES VOL 1

(Image AUG061750 $29.99)

HABERLIN'S DIGITAL ART TUTORIALS: PAINT SUPER BABES VOL 1

(Image AUG061751 $29.99)

Instructional video tutorials by Brian *Haberlin,* one of the field's most skilled colorists.

JAMES BAMA: AMERICAN REALIST HC

(Flesk AUG063779 $34.95)

Look at the career of the paperback cover artist, advertising illustrator, and Western painter best known to fans for his work as the Bantam Books Doc Savage cover artist in the 1960s and 1970s.

MARVEL COMICS ENCYCLOPEDIA HC

(DK JUL063672 $40.00)

Featuring a foreword by *Stan Lee,* this unique encyclopedia covers all of Marvel Comics' greatest heroes and villains - over 1,000 characters - complete with full details of their powers and their thrill-packed careers.

Check 'Em Out: Book You Should Be Reading

ACME NOVELTY LIBRARY VOL 17 HC

(D&Q AUG063267 $16.95)

More brilliant unpredictability from *Chris Ware,* one of comics' most talented and innovative creators. This latest volume continues Ware's serialized graphic novel ***Rusty Brown.***

ALL STAR SUPERMAN #6

(DC JUL060145 $2.99)

Superman returns to Smallville to mourn the loss of his adoptive father. As Clark Kent returns to his hometown roots, the fifth Dimensional trickster investigates human drama from an entirely different perspective in this unforgettable tale by *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely.* Superman comics don't get any better than this!

BATMAN #658

(DC AUG060168 $2.99)

Presenting the shocking conclusion of the 4-part 'Batman and Son,' by *Grant Morrison, Andy Kubert & Jesse Delperdang.* And just as he's doing in ***All Star Superman,*** Morrison redefines the Dark Knight in the pages of this stunning series.

CRIMINAL #1

(Marvel AUG062090 $2.99)

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips launch a new ongoing Icon series that features tales of heists, murders and cons. Here's Brubaker doing what he does best—dark, personal tales of those who operate outside the confines of law.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #3

(DC AUG060211 $2.99)

The re-formation of the League continues courtesy of *Brad Meltzer & Ed Benes*, and one of the new members comes up against the latest - and deadliest - of the JLA villains: Dr. Impossible.

LONE RANGER #2

(Dynamite AUG063193 $2.99)

The 'Year One' origin of the Lone Ranger continues from creators *Brett Matthews, John Cassaday, Sergio Cariello*, and colorist *Dean White*. This is the Lone Ranger the way you've never seen him before—but it's the version you're going to remember!

PLANETARY #26

(WildStorm/DC AUG060277 $2.99)

Elija Snow versus Randall Dowling—and that's a meeting no Planetary reader should miss! The end of the *Warren Ellis-John Cassaday* saga approaching—but this is one series that's going out with a bang, not a whimper!

SEVEN SOLDIERS #1

(DC AUG060221 $3.99)

There's no stopping *Grant Morrison*, who continues to turn out some of the best reading in contemporary comics. Here, Morrison and artist *J.H. Williams III* present the finale of the strangest non-team series in history .

TAILS VOL 1: LIFE IN PROGRESS TP

(Bohemian AUG063124 $12.95)

Personal observation crosses paths with animal rescue in this engaging tale by *Ethan Young*. This volume collects the first three issues of autobiographical series that follows the journey of two animal activists in New York.

ULTIMATE X-MEN #75

(Marvel AUG062017 $3.99)

If one man is capable of disrupting the carefully controlled world of Charles Xavier's School For Gifted Youngsters, it's Ultimate Cable!

WITCHBLADE #103

(Image AUG061800 $2.99)

The Witchblade changes hands—but who will be its new bearer? Find out here!

Y—THE LAST MAN #50

(Vertigo/DC AUG060301 $2.99)

In the landmark fiftieth issue of the critically acclaimed series, the person, people or thing behind the plague that killed every man except for Yorick Brown is finally revealed.

ZOMBIES VS ROBOTS #1

(IDW AUG063380 $3.99)

High tech meets high terror in this SF/horror tale by *Chris Ryall & Ashley Wood*.

THE REVOLUTION BEGINS HERE!
BATTLESTAR
GALACTICA
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STJEPAN SEJIC COVER
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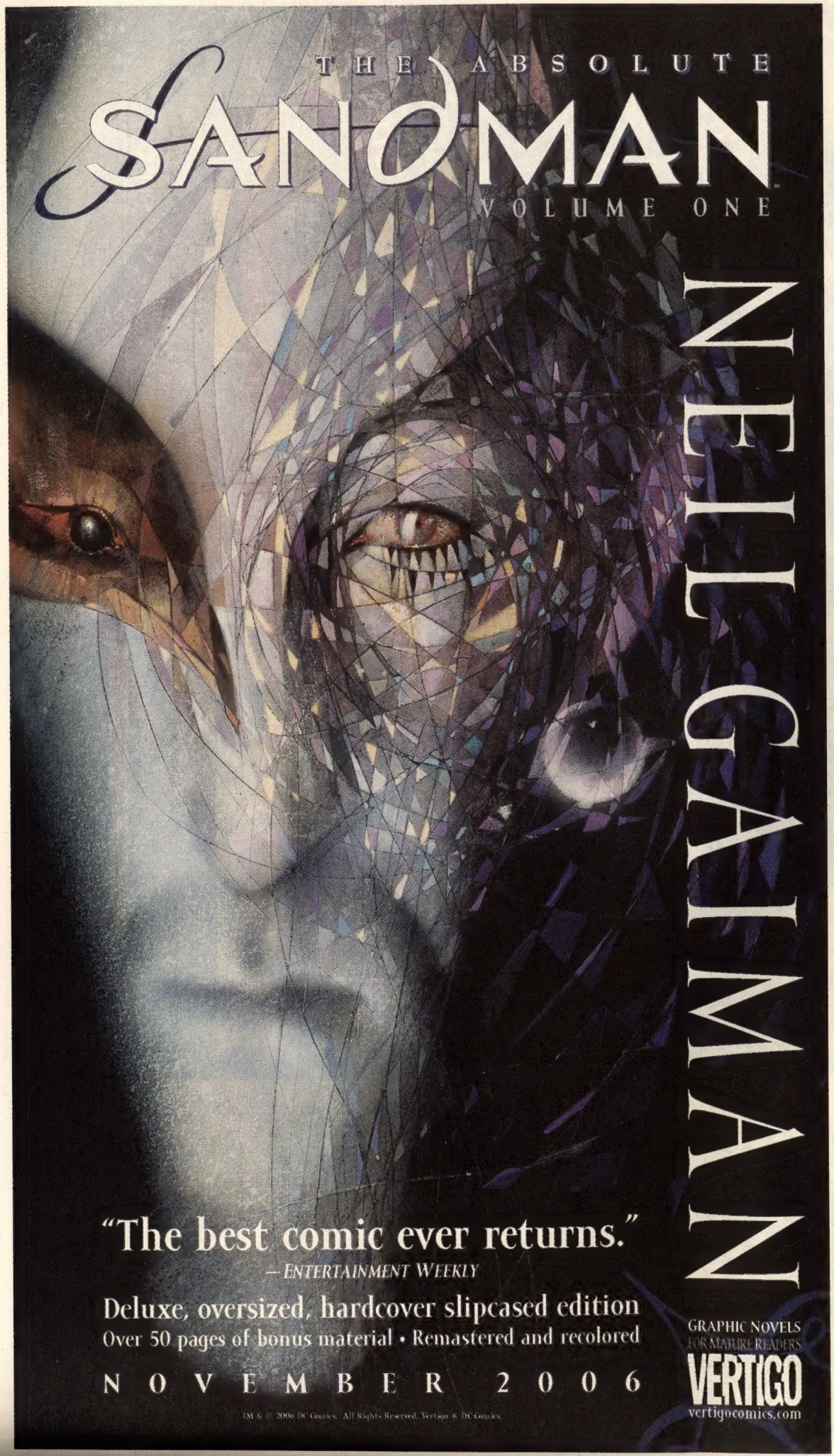
BATTLESTAR GALACTICA: ZAREK #1
WRITTEN BY: BRANDON JERWA
INTERIOR ARTISTS: ADRIANO BATISTA WITH ARIES MENDOSA
COVER ARTISTS: STJEPAN SEJIC AND ADRIANO BATISTA WITH DEAN WHITE
INCENTIVE #1: 1-15 BATISTA SKETCH COVER
INCENTIVE #2: 1-25 BATISTA NEGATIVE ART COVER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VOLUME ONE
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